MONTEREY NEWS

JANUARY 1989

TOWN NEWS

Lake Garfield Study in the Works

Monterey Selectmen met with the Monterey Conservation Commission and representatives of the Lake Garfield Association on Monday, December 12, to hear a presentation by Raymond LeVesque, on possibilities for an evaluation of the lake's week problem. Mr. LeVesque, a certified fisheries biologist and limnologist, is president of Associated Environmental Scientists, Inc., an environmental consulting firm in West Springfield. He was discovered by Dean Amidon, while canoeing in Lake Garfield last July 4. At that time, LeVesque observed more algae and pond weed than seemed appropriate to the lake in its present state.

At the meeting, comments by various Town officials gradually led LeVesque to conclude that a more extensive study would be required than originally assumed. He listened to concerns from all sides and agreed to submit a formal proposal for a diagnostic/feasibility study which could be conducted season by season, beginning in spring 1989.

Son of Phantom of the Lake

After Highway crew members welded a handle on the mechanism which opens and closes the dam gate on Lake Garfield, and the handle was secured with a chain, Monterey's persistent vandal once again sabotaged plans to maintain a flood control level of three feet. The phantom cut the chain and opened the gates on the last weekend in November. Road superintendent Don Amstead discovered the situation and once again restored the gate to its proper position. Since then, no more tampering has been done with the new mechanism. Wild and domestic denizens of the lake can hope things will remain stable through the winter.

Information Meeting on School Improvements

An informational meeting of Monterey residents is scheduled for Saturday, January 21, at 10:00 a.m. in the firehouse to present issues related to plans for improvement of our regional school buildings. The meeting, originally scheduled for January 10, will present plans for a new building and modernization of the existing buildings on the Mt. Everett campus.

A second meeting will be scheduled in February for all school district towns to vote for or against the plan. Monterey Selectmen are unanimously in favor of the best school system available to area students, but Chairman Matt Williams expressed dismay at the fact that, as yet, there are no details on Monterey's share of the approximately 25 million dollar cost of the project. Selectmen and Finance Committee members are urging the School Building Committee to pin down figures as soon as possible, so all parties may make informed judgment and recommendations.

Because of the large amount of money involved, the Selectmen intend to make the vote in February a ballot vote and

SUSAN McALLESTER

Sheep at Gould Farm

provide absentee ballots for residents out of town for the winter.

Selectmen's Holiday Party

At its regular meeting Monday, December 19, Monterey's Board of Selectmen hosted a Christmas party for all Town officials. They decorated a tree for the occasion and served refreshments to those who attended. Chairman Matt Williams complimented all Monterey Town officials on the good job they have done all year and expressed hope for equally good work in the new year.

— Ellen K. Pearson

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CHURCH NEWS

New Year's Greetings:

And so begins the 239th year of our church. Over the years many things have changed in this community and its church. No longer do the faithful travel by horseback on Sunday morning. Fireplaces have given way to central heating; the lightbulb has replaced the candle; the telephone now links our voices together at the touch of fingertips. Computers, copy machines and space-age technology abound.

Yes, much has changed. But many things remain the same: the spirit of community, the commitment to our families, the ministry of the church. This balanced perspective has been summed up in our church's anthem:

We agree to differ
We resolve to love
We unite to serve

Monterey is a unique place: people willing to accept the diversity of viewpoints and lifestyles which makes up our community. And yet, even more so, to affirm that, in love, we are bound together as part of the human family.

The church has been a focal point of our community for generations. The past few years have been filled with our share of pain and anguish. But out of the midst of discouragement new life has already begun to sprout. A new year is beginning, and we, the church family, are filled with renewed hope, a sense of possibility and a commitment to journey forth into the adventure of ministry which lies before us.

1989! A great time to be alive—with limitless opportunity for discovery, growth and sharing. You are invited to join with us in our winter worship. We will be meeting at 10:00 a.m. every Sunday morning in the downstairs hall. Our worship format will be informal, gathering in a circle to explore and celebrate our diversity, our love and our dedication. Bring the children. Our "children's corner" will allow them to participate in worship while learning in an experiential and creative way what it means to be a child of God.

So come by car, Jeep, jet or horseback. The fellowship is warm, the love is genuine and the spirit is contagious.

Grace and Peace,

Cliff Aerie

VOX ED — COMMUNITY EFFORT

In a town the size of Monterey everything gets done by community effort. A glance at the annual Town Report shows who the neighbors are who struggle as volunteers or on small part-time salaries to keep things going the best way they know how. Critics who see our officers and committee members as antagonists, "arrogant" and drunk with power are employing big city notions where they don't apply.

In the case of the *Monterey News* our masthead does not begin to show all the devoted people in this town who make our paper possible. The many signed articles, photographs, stories, poems, drawings and reports in each issue fill out the picture somewhat but still don't impress the casual enumerator sufficiently with the fact that we are one of the largest institutions in town. Let me introduce the *Monterey News* family.

Our Advisory Board, in order of seniority: **Edith Wilson**, who was on the paper from the start in 1970, whose sure artistic hand continues to delight us, and whose logo of the town on the front page has been there nearly as long as the paper has been in existence; **Ellen K. Pearson**, our chairperson, under whose editorship the paper reached its present size and format, and whose "Town News" informs us with wit and grace; **Barbara Gauthier**, our business manager, who keeps track of the complex ebb and flow of our finances; **Bonner McAllester**, art editor, who canvasses the town for drawings from children as well as from our professional artists, and whose natural history essays and drawings appear in *The Berkshire Eagle* as well as on our pages; **Susan McAllester**, layout editor, whose sure eye for a handsome page and whose photographs give the paper real distinction; **Elk Dempsey**, who brings us his business sense and his publishing know-how; **Peter Murkett**, writer and creator of a circle of writers, who also gives us poems and stories.

Creators of regular columns and features are **Wayne Burkhart**, "Wastelines," who has made himself an authority on the crucial problem of waste disposal; **John Higgins**, "Library Notes," who notifies our readers of the activities of this valuable Monterey resource; **Tom O'Brien**, "Beartown Forest," reminding us of the many things to be enjoyed in those 20,000 acres; **Cliff Aerie**, with the "Church News" and his observations on the spiritual side of the community: he also edits the *Monterey Messenger*, a bimonthly newsletter treating church matters in more detail; **Mary Wallace**, Lecturer of the Monterey Grange and author of succinct notes on Grange happenings; **Stephanie Grotz**, whose "Personal Notes" report our comings and goings and our vital statistics; **David Balch**, the talented cartoonist with the raccoon signature and the puns you wouldn't have thought of in a million years; **Chris Burkhart**, our other regular cartoonist, whose "Tunnels" gives us a worm's eye view of the world; **Fran Amidon**, **Dek Tillett**, and **Tom Rosenthal**, Park Commission reports; **Joyce Scheffey**, **Bob Thieriot** and **Nicky Hearon**, Land Trust reports; **Joe Baker**, Planning Board reports; **Leslie Scutellaro**, Affordable Housing; **Sally Fijux**, Historical Society notices, essays, and photographs. **Bonner** also gives us Conservation Commission reports.

Besides Edith, Chris, and David, **Maureen Banner** and **Frank D'Amato** grace nearly every issue with their elegant drawings. **Jim Laffey** contributes "Who's Who in Monterey" and fine photographs to go with his biographic sketches; **Eleanor Kimberley**, **Sue White Moody**, **Ann LaVallee**, **Stefan Brecht**, **David McAllester**, **Dorothy Law** and **Alice Howell** are some of our poets not already mentioned, and Eleanor also contributes photographs going back to Monterey's early days. **Bob Rausch** also gives us stories and Land Trust reports and **Milly Walsh** notifies us of events central to Monterey's sense of community. **A. Wallace Tryon**'s "History of Monterey" and **Evalyn Stafford**'s "Heaven Lies About Us: A Love Affair with Swann Forest" are unpublished resources on the early days in Monterey from which we draw freely. Add to all this talent a number of young people who have sent us poems or drawings: **Eoin Higgins**, **Morgan Clawson**, **Sudi Baker**, **Shaylan Burkhart**.

The community effort list grows ever longer as we turn to the production side of the *Monterey News*. **Eileen Clawson** and **Pat Amstead** do the typesetting. Then follows layout and paste-up by Susan and me after which the *News* begins to travel, first to Kwik-Print in Great Barrington, where it is all printed up and labeled the same day. The labels have been prepared by **Virgil Stucker** and **Nancy Ancora** at Gould Farm according to a computer design by **John Green** that allows us to separate winter and summer addresses.

Then **Stella Bodnar** brings it back to Monterey at the end of her school day at Mt. Everett School, and she and **John** sort it according to postal zones. Of course Monterey and Great Barrington make up the heaviest bundles, but a surprising number goes to Florida and California. The workers at the Monterey Post Office who cheerfully speed it on its way are **Walter Parks** and **Jerry Hamling**. As a result of all this effort some 1,150 copies go out in the mail and another 100 or so are picked up at the General Store and the Roadside Store. Even before it hits the mail the *News* travels some 1,000 miles in a year as it progresses from step to step to fulfill its role in our community. I make that out to be 49 people who willingly cooperate to produce a paper we can be proud of.

— David P. McAllester

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PERSONAL NOTES

Congratulations to **Nancy Kalodner** of Benchmark Real Estate, who was elected President of the 780-member Berkshire County Board of Realtors for 1989 at their annual meeting. Nancy was officially inaugurated on December 16 at the Berkshire Hilton in Pittsfield. For better service to the public, Nancy has set the attainment of a higher level of professional education for all realtors as one of her goals for the year.

We commend **Rick Mielke** for his valiant attempt to save a dog's life recently. The dog was hit by a car near the town center and was left, still alive, lying by the side of the road. No one was sure of the dog's owner, or what to do, but Rick came along, carried the dog to his truck and drove him to the vet, while his wife Debbie made several phone calls to track the dog's owner. Although the dog did not survive, we, and the owners, I'm sure, are grateful that he was given a chance. You're a good egg after all, Rick Mielke!

Welcome back to **John Higgins** and **Dean Amidon,** who have had surgical sojourns at the hospital. We're very happy to see that both are doing well and can be seen about town, again.

Bud and **Shirley Pearl** are away for three months in warmer climes. The lucky pair will be in Puerto Rico for two months, and they will have a month in Arizona, as well. They will bring the songbirds with them when they return in early spring!

The Dana-Farber Cancer Institute's Jimmy Fund designated **Bob Theriot** a "heavy hitter" for the more than $3,000 he raised in pledges in the Pan-Mass Challenge bicycle ride. Bob and nearly 900 other riders participated in the 194-mile trip from Sturbridge to Provincetown, as reported in an earlier issue of the *News*.

Hearty congratulations to those students named to the honor roll list for the first quarter at Mt. Everett Regional High School. They are: Gr. 12, High Honors: **Shelby Loder;** Gr. 11, High Honors: **Natasha Grotz** and **Anne Makuc,** and Honors: **Patrick McBride;** Gr. 10, High Honors: **Brooke Loder** and **William Thieriot,** and Gr. 9, High Honors: **Francis Soncini,** and, Honors, **Olivia Williams.**

Also, named to the Junior High list at Mt. Everett, in Gr. 8, Honors: **Marta Makuc** and **Michael Ohman,** and, in Gr. 7, High Honors: **Erin Sadlowski, Meghan Sadlowski, Gabe Small,** and **Bruce Snow.** It's great to see so many Monterey names on the list. Keep up the great work, all of you!

Natasha Grotz had the honor of being a forerunner in the U.S. Pro Slalom race held at Waterville Valley recently. Tasha found the forty-gate two-bump course challenging and quite thrilling. The exciting race was won by former Olympic gold medalist Phil Mahre. The pleasure of skiing with him and his twin brother Steve, was all hers.

Happy Happy Birthday Wishes to **Ed Brosseau,** 85 years young on November 5, to **Edith Wilson** on November 10, to **Stefan Grotz** on December 1, to **Michael Mielke,** ten years old on December 8, to **Tasha Grotz,** sweet 16 on December 12, to **Morgan Clawson**, a very grown-up nine years old on December 20, and to **Hedy Craven** and **Don Amstead Jr.** on Christmas Day, December 25.

Felicitations to **Keith** and **Karen Quisenberry** of Bidwell Road on the birth of **Kirsten Lee** on November 25. She weighed in at six pounds and six ounces and helps get the sixth generation of Monterey Quisenberrys off to a good start.

— Stephanie Grotz

NEW BUILDING AND/OR MODERNIZATION PROJECT—MT. EVERETT REGIONAL SCHOOL

Last month we reported that an informational meeting for Monterey residents would be held in January to present plans and discuss issues regarding the new school/modernization project for Mt. Everett. The date for our meeting has been changed to Saturday, January 21, at 10:00 a.m. at the Monterey firehouse. Hopefully, this change will give more people an opportunity to attend. At the meeting, information will be available regarding enrollment projections, deficiencies in existing school buildings, inside floor plans, cost and impact on tax rates, and other pertinent material.

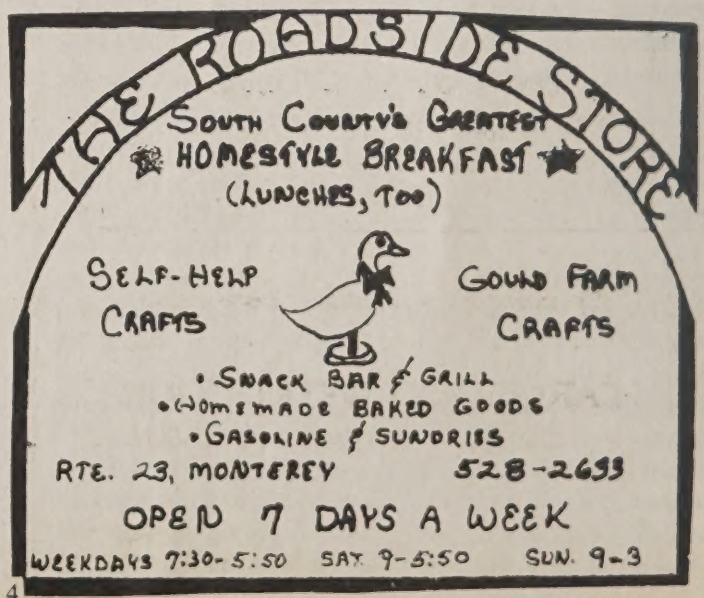
Members of the informational team as well as architects from Tessier Associates will attend.

Evelyn Vallianos, chairperson, 528-3474
Carol Sadlowski, parent, PTA, 528-4704
Peggy Small, teacher, 528-2446
Margy Ohman, member, School Building Committee, 528-1785
John Dinan, Jr., chairman, School Building Committee, 528-0611
Linda Thorpe, liaison to Monterey Fire Company, 528-2164
Cory Loder, School Committee Representative, 528-9285.

Other informational meetings scheduled:

Sheffield: January 17, 7:30 p.m., Mt. Everett Library
New Marlborough: January 23, 7:30 p.m., New Marlborough Town Hall
Saturday Open House at Sheffield Center and Mt. Everett Regional Schools: January 28, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
District-Wide Building Informational Meeting: February 8, 7:30 p.m., Mt. Everett Library
Five-Town Voting Date: February 15 or 16.

— Evelyn Vallianos



WHO'S WHO IN MONTEREY

Arthur and Alice Somers

I had the pleasure of interviewing Arthur and Alice Somers back in October — I had to catch them before they took off to winter in Mexico. I was really looking forward to doing this interview because I had heard so many nice things about this couple and also because I had never seen Rock Ridge, their beautiful home overlooking Lake Garfield. When I called up to ask for an interview, not only did they say yes, but they invited me to a party they were giving the next day. Although I couldn't make the party, I did visit a few days later. Arthur and Alice were so gracious, and so interesting to talk to, that I could have stayed and talked with them all day.

Arthur Somers is now 68. Previously an insurance agent for Allstate, he's been retired for the past two years. Originally from Brooklyn, Arthur has spent "every summer here, short of the war years," since birth. His grandfather built a house here. Art's father was a World War I naval aviator and a U. S. congressman for 25 years. Art has been flying since he was 16, and spent nine years with the Marines as a dive bomber. He attended Villa Nova College and Seton Hall Law School. He used to be an avid tennis player and was, in fact, the Intercontinental Marine Corps Doubles Champion. Even though he's retired, he's as busy as ever. Art plays trumpet with the Stockbridge Chamber Orchestra. He's the president of the Berkshire Chapter of the Isaak Walton League, an environmental group. He's a Gould Farm Associate and a regular customer of the Roadside Store. He's also the resident groundskeeper at Rock Ridge, which, if you know the place, is a full-time job.

Alice Somers is originally from Montville, New Jersey. She attended Rosemont College in Rosemont, PA. Besides taking part in various athletic activities such as basketball and hockey, she was also the student body president. Alice was a French teacher for some time. She married Art on September 12, 1942, in Belmar, New Jersey. They have three daughters: Pamela in Manhattan, Cynthia in New Jersey, and Hillary in Tyringham, and one son, Arthur, in Hawaii. Alice enjoys gardening and "walking through the woods, especially when I'm mushroom hunting." She is an expert mycologist, having studied mushrooms for more than 20 years. "There are over 300,000 species of fungi," she explains. "One of the most interesting is the so-called 'Death Cup,' which can kill you within 24 hours."

The Somerses bought Rock Ridge in 1978. It is an incredible place, built back in 1898 by Curtis Judd, who named it for all the stone walls surrounding the gardens. Art and Alice hold a special place in their hearts for Monterey. "Our happiest days when we were young were the summers spent here, and our happy final days will be spent here too."

— Jim Laffey

P. S. If the Somerses are reading this column down in Mexico, please let me apologize long distance for losing the picture I took of you. When you get back, we'll do another and publish it then. Next month in Who's Who: Mark Amstead.

SUSAN McALLESTER

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MONTEREY LAND TRUST

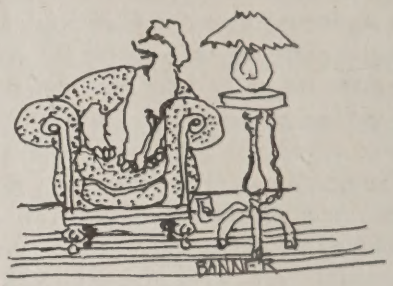
The Monterey Planning Board, The Monterey Land Trust, the Southern Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, the Massachusetts Legislative Rural Caucus and the Berkshire County Cooperative Extension jointly sponsored a presentation, by Kathryn Preston of The Center for Rural Massachusetts, at the Monterey town offices on Thursday, December 8. The presentation was called "Growing Smart, A Public Forum on Preserving Rural Character While Providing for Economic Growth." There was a slide presentation with discussion following. The sponsors were pleased with the large turnout and the interest and concern expressed by those present. Essentially, the message was that it is possible to preserve the character of the New England village, with examples given of what other towns have done, and still provide for economic growth.

Many people expressed concern regarding the numbers of second-home owners in the area and the changes which have occurred due to this influx. One aspect of this change has been that in Monterey, specifically, there are homes which have been resold three times in the last year. That means, of course, rising prices and rising taxes. In addition, people commented on the loss of community which seems to be felt by many townspeople. Others noted that it is now impossible for the children of long-time residents to afford homes in the communities in which they have grown up. It was pointed out that many second-home owners are also concerned about the unplanned growth and loss of rural character: The open space and rural character are the reasons they come here. It was a lively and thought provoking evening. Several communities in the area were represented in addition to Monterey; the concerns of planning for the future are regional concerns.

The APR program which has been of help in preserving farmland in Massachusetts is one of the state programs that are in jeopardy. This should be of particular concern to residents of Monterey, as this is the program under which Sheldon Fenn's farmland will be preserved. Those now in the program will receive their money, and Mr. Fenn is in that group. The question is when those monies will be received. Governor Dukakis has appointed a new Secretary of Agriculture, John De Villars (see article elsewhere), and everyone is urged to write him at the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, 100 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02202, and encourage him to support this important program.

If you are a member of the Land Trust and have a particular concern there is probably a committee which can use your help. Just speak to any board member or see Roger Tryon, president. If you are not a member and you like what we're doing, please join us.

— Nicky Hearon



DeVILLARS TO BE INVITED TO THE BERKSHIRES

John DeVillars, recently appointed as the new State Secretary of Environmental Affairs, will be invited to the Berkshires (perhaps even to Monterey) by Chris Hodgkins shortly after his swearing in. Chris asked the Monterey Land Trust to help publicize the event when the date is set.

It was a disappointment to the environmental community that Bill Eichbaum, the agency's active and experienced #2 man, was not appointed to the top post. As the Associated Press reported, "nevertheless, environmental advocates publicly welcomed DeVillars because the operations chief is a long-time Dukakis loyalist who can be expected to have the governor's ear in cabinet battles with more development-minded aides. He has promised an aggressive environmental agenda and "not to postpone anything."

"What's important in a Secretary is someone who cares about the environment, someone who is willing to fight for the environment," said Marsha Rockefeller of Mass Audubon, "There is no reason to believe he won't be that person." George Wislocki said, "John DeVillars is a close friend of the Governor. At this time, what with budget cuts in the offing, John DeVillars will be in a good position to fight the environmental battles ahead. I support his appointment wholeheartedly."

Monterey
by Leonard Weber

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NEWSPAPER SHED NEARLY (NOT QUITE) EMPTY

On Saturday, December 10, on a bright chilly day, the noble Boy Scouts of Sheffield, with their equally noble Scout Master, George Oleen, and Troop Committee Chairman, Jack French, came to Monterey and tackled the monumental job of clearing out an estimated 10 to 12 tons of newspapers from the shed at the Town dump. The truck was able to take all but two rows.

The troop is now using a different recycling company, Bonded Insulation Inc. Although this company pays less per ton than the former one, the string and other packaging (*always excluding plastic and plastic tape*) does not have to be removed as in the former process. The papers can now be carted directly to the reprocessing center, saving the troop the necessity of unloading and storing the papers in Sheffield and then reloading and de-stringing them at a later date.

The proceeds are used to support camping and educational trips and also troop fees and expenses after the first year of a scout's enrollment. "Thanks to the newspaper program," says Jack French, "after a boy has been a scout for a year, the troop will pick up all his expenses—he still has to supply his own gear, of course, but the rest is on the troop."

"We took a trip to Cooperstown this summer," added George Oleen. "We like to do things proud, a little extra here and there, like having steak sometimes instead of the usual hot dogs and hamburgers."

The boys were amazingly like boys . . . lots of teasing amid the hard work . . . some working harder than others, of course, but every single one of them going at it with a will. That old shed was unloaded and the truck packed tight by 1:00 p.m. Louie and James were particularly good workers, in this observer's opinion, and showed an impressive sense of responsibility about getting the job done. Monterey thanks Troop #28 for their sense of community "buckle down to it" spirit.

During the course of events that morning, it was learned that *brown paper bags are recycleable! So those of you who hate bundling with string, please use paper bags. Also, anything that comes with your newspaper is recyclable. That includes comics, magazine sections, etc.*

Volunteer labor from Monterey consisted of Wayne Burkhart, Bob Rausch, Phil Morrison, Pickens Miller and Joyce Scheffey.

— Joyce Scheffey

OPEN LETTER TO THE *MONTEREY NEWS*

On the evening of November 29, my dog was struck by a hit and run driver on Route 23. While the dog was still alive, Rick Mielke found him and, without knowing whose dog it was, he took him to a veterinarian and offered to pay whatever expenses would be necessary. My family and I would like to thank Rick publicly for his sensitivity and his generosity. When we moved to Monterey five years ago, we were told that we had come to a special community, where being a good neighbor is not thought of as being unusual. What Rick did for us is an expression of that Monterey spirit: his neighborliness did much to help soften the pain caused by the loss of our dog.

— Ted Tchack

MONTEREY WASTELINES

Looking for the Bandwagon in Springfield

Four of us from Monterey were the informal Berkshire County delegation to the ceremony marking construction of the state's first mechanized recycling plant.

Donuts and coffee in hand, we joined a few dozen mostly well-suited state and local officials and state DEQE (Department of Environmental Quality Engineering) staff people under a small yellow and white striped canopy in Wason North Industrial Park in Springfield. After several speeches, someone produced four new bronze-colored spades, and people in clean office clothes stepped out in the late autumn drizzle toward Birnie Avenue for the short, dirt-stirring ceremony. One television camera whirred, and that was about it.

Off to our right, trucks and cranes dug into the real work of removing an old foundation. Steve Ellis, DEQE Western Division Solid Waste Coordinator, was pleased to see us and hoped the machines could work through most of the winter on the recycling warehouses and related office space to be erected on the site.

It took a bit of imagination to see this chilly event in the Connecticut River Valley as an important harbinger for our Monterey lifestyle. The plant being built is funded by the Commonwealth, and is the largest of its kind anywhere in the country. If the plant operates successfully, it will benefit those towns in the western part of Massachusetts which have shown the faith to sign contracts of participation and will deliver selected, mixed recyclable bottles, cans, paper, cardboard and certain other materials sometime after the autumn of this year.

Monterey's selectmen have shown faith by signing a contract about six months ago. Town citizens showed their support by adopting a mandatory recycling ordinance at the May, 1988 Town Meeting. Our Town solid waste contractor, Berkshire Clean-Way, Inc., has sent a letter "strongly recommending" participation in the state recycling program.

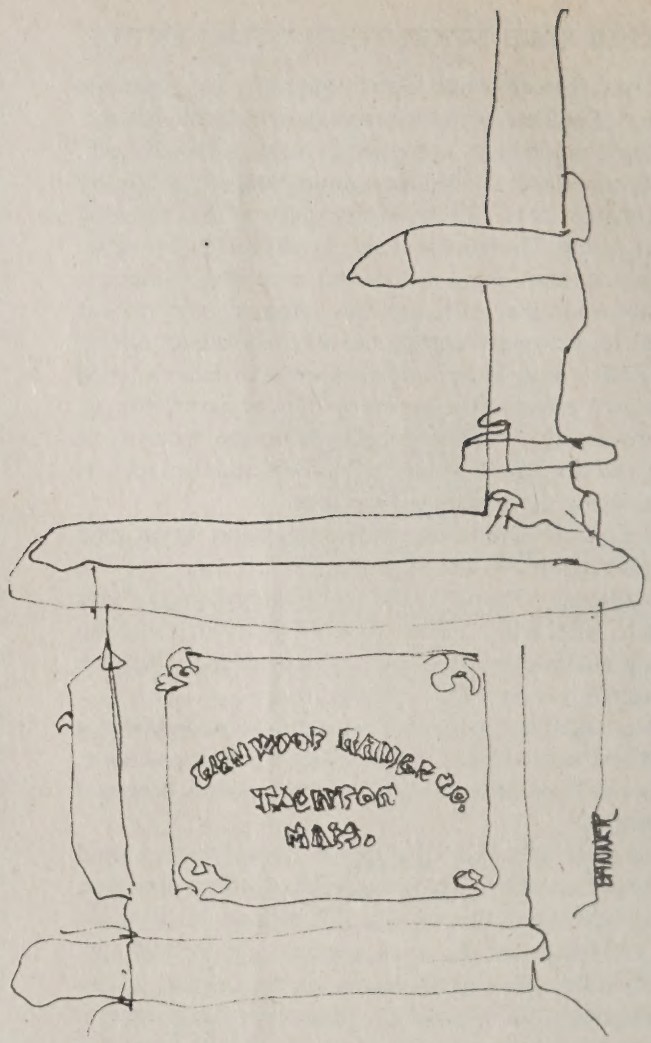
So we four Monterey residents at the small, drizzly ceremony were just doing our bit, with the rest of you, to decorate the bandwagon for the future recycling march through Monterey. I hope it will be a satisfying, long-rolling juggernaut.

— Wayne Burkhart

SEVEN ROGUES

As I was walking to Saint Pogue's
I met a man with seven rogues
Each rogue a bag, each bag a charm,
And carrying each, a good strong arm.
I thought I'd never seen so much
As seven rogues, each spreading such
Intriguing smiles, so e'er they went
To each a bonny kiss I sent.
The first fine rogue would give me time,
That is, if he were feeling fine.
The second rogue good luck would send,
Or maybe try my heart to mend.
The third rogue that I met that day
Might give me gold with which to play;
The fourth white sheets; the fifth, fair sweets;
And yes, I'd have charm from the sixth;
But when I'd reach the seventh — A HOME —
Ah that one, never more I'd roam.
As I was walking to Saint Pogue's
I met a man with seven rogues,
And ever since, as if by plan,
I see as many rogues as can.
Some folks do say I fickle be,
Others say, "No, her soul flies free,"
Yet truth to state, homebody rogues
Are not too frequent near Saint Pogue's,
So I suppose I'll search in vain
For one dear rogue down life's green lane.

— Sue Moody

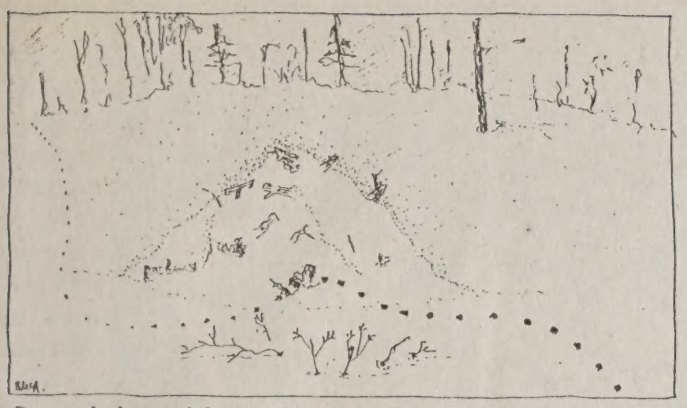


IN AETERNUM

The sands are ever moving in the wind,
The rivers hurry downward to the shore;
The tides roll in, and then roll out once more;
The errant air no domicile can find;
The hours speed, nor ever glance behind;
Upon the coast the endless breakers roar;
The maize is reaped and sown: out through the Door
Cities and states and men forever wind.

Yet may the sand lie soon where it has lain;
The river is renewed upon the hill;
The moon will keep her watch in wax and wane;
The deep of ocean stands as still as still.
The beauty of the dawn, the joys of men
(Their sorrows, too) are born and born again.

— *Earle F. Stafford*



Beaver lodge and fox tracks

SOLSTICE PARADOXES

I like to go down to the beaver pond at this time of year. I do so hoping to bring back a happy report, of a full pond, a refurbished lodge, a good winter food supply. But there is always the likelihood that the pond will be down, the beavers gone. Often they move out into the larger lake during the fall, especially when water has been diverted from their pond, as happens in a dry fall.

We have neighbors, and so do the beavers, whose "lakefront" is actually along a dug canal or cul de sac. The brook has been partially diverted into the far end of this in an attempt to create some current to clear out pond weeds which pile up there at the eastern end of the lake, which is down wind. Some dry summers these folks like to dam up the brook, putting all its water into the diversion ditch. Then there is nothing flowing into the beaver pond, so the beavers move out into the lake, put up a new house, start laying in winter food supply.

Then along comes mid-October and the lake gets drawn down for weed or flood control. The beavers' preparations are left high and dry so they scurry back into the pond, hastily repair the dam and the lodge and start putting by branches and twiggery for the winter. They must have a small brain and a short memory because they don't remember this from one year to the next. They always get caught unprepared by the drawdown. On the other hand, they are so well-equipped with instinct and adaptability that in the 35 years I've been watching this particular beaver pond, it has never been deserted for more than a short period of time. They always come back.

This is the thing I tell myself when I find the pond down. What appears to me to be a conflict between two populations who use the lake is really not like that from a beaver's point of view. They experience a sequence of events, dealing with each thing as it comes along, probably with very little actual thought. I read once that the sound of running water triggers a beaver's dam-repairing response. Some scientists made a tape-loop of running water and put it near a beaver dam. There was no actual leak, but the beavers kept on slapping up mud and sticks until the machine was turned off.

It has been my observation that when the brook stops running into a beaver pond, the beavers move out. This, too, may be what the scientists call a response, not an actual thought process. Then the lake level drops and the beavers move again, back into the pond. By this time the diversion up in the brook has usually washed out. After that they just proceed with their usual winter preparations, a bit late. I can't picture them getting annoyed or starting up a Beaver Power group to fight the pale-faced, fur-less lake grabbers and water manipulators.

Sometimes I do picture the beavers dying. I went down last week and found that the dam has been repaired, the old lodge fixed up, and a food supply laid in. This is quite recent, quite late. There isn't much twiggery above the ice, and I can imagine the food running out before the thaw, especially if there are two or three beavers wintering there. On the other hand, maybe there is only one and maybe he got a lot of branches anchored way down in the mud with no twigs sticking up. This could happen.

When I picture the beavers dying, or even just one beaver dying the slow death of starvation, my own thought processes sort of freeze over and I feel my brain getting smaller and my behavior turning into innate response. I just can't handle it that beavers, muskrats, turtles, salamanders, frogs, snails, clams and zillions of little invertebrates that make most people go "yuck" are freezing and starving every year because a bunch of people, most of whom spend the winters in Florida, go "yuck" at pond weeds.

On the other hand, I was just down there and the beaver pond looked nice and healthy. They always come back, always. There's got to be something wrong with me if I can't get happy about that certainty. The scientists are happy about it. When you ask them about the effects of drawdown on small mammals they tell you right away that the populations recover. I guess that's it, the difference is between populations and individuals.

People have this idea that they were put here to dominate the earth and all other species of living things. Some people also think they should dominate all other groups of people. The result of this way of thinking is that we have newspapers and news magazines that one can hardly stand to read, the news is so bad, from war to environmental catastrophe.

Well, there is a cure. You might think this is a make-do type of cure, or a rose-tinted glass, but it makes a balance. At this time of year when the air is cold, the light so bright, and darkness longer than day, balance is important. Here it is: If the population is getting you down, look to the individual; if the long haul looks ominous, take it one day at a time. This is how the early pagans made it through solstice, when they couldn't be sure the long haul would even come to pass. They partied, one day after another, kept their spirits up, and then the day dawned when the sunlight lasted a little longer. The paradox, so hard to live with, is that individuals are the population, and all the days add up to a lifetime, which is all you get and all you are, whether you are a pagan, a lakeshore property owner, or a beaver.

— Bonner J. McAllester

No snow,
No flower,
No snowgrass,
November.

— Sudi Baker

Gay Nineties Show, 1948: Bill & Dot Hall, Earl Bigford, Amy Enoe, Marguerite & Wallace Tryon, Nina Tryon, and Howard Wells

Photographs of the Monterey Grange, 1948 and c. 1950 by Eleanor Kimberley

MONTEREY GRANGE

Monterey Grange No. 291 met December 7 at a regular meeting in preparation for the Christmas party and worked on the cheer boxes for the shut-ins. Patricia and Margaret Holohan and Susan Andersen were taken in as members.

Grange members met December 15 at the Lecturer's house and prepared sixteen cheer boxes to be delivered to nursing homes and private homes in the area.

On December 16 the annual Christmas party for members, families, and friends was held. There was a variety Christmas program, carol singing, and a delicious buffet.

The next meeting will be January 18. There will be a New Year's program and a Dues Paying Supper.

— Mary Wallace
Lecturer

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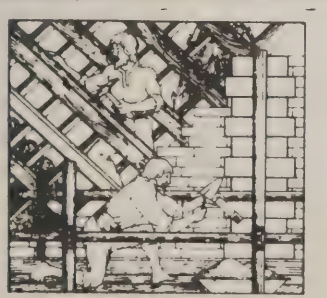

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Monterey Josh Billings Team, September 18, 1988: John Makuc, Richard Sheridan, Mark Makuc, and Michael Marcus

DON CLAWSON

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

Just want you to know that I so enjoyed reading the "Who's Who in Monterey" in the December issue.

I actually look forward to going to the Post Office because Mr. Parks is the most pleasant, smiling, helpful person I have ever met.

And yes, we are lucky to have him.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Diane Gell

To the Editor:

Re: "Glide on, Monterey!"

About 47 years ago, my brother Charlie and I had the best ice skating experience of our lives.

We and our family were in Monterey for the Christmas holidays, and it must have been an extra cold year as we took our ice skates up with us from Brooklyn, N. Y.

The stream behind the "Miner's" store was frozen very deeply, and we and our friends had a wonderful time playing until the lights came on at night. I was caught in a hide-and-seek game as the light from the road showed up my hair as I peeked out to see.

Charlie, whom I used to call "Brother" in those days, and I have remembrances of so many young friends. Raymond Tryon, Ruth Heath, Ruby Kinne, Martha Tryon, Tillie Westberg, Lois & Francis Miner, ... We of course met more people as we grew up.

A winter skating rink sounds as if the Monterey people really care for and about the young people.

Sincerely,

Eleanor "Greeker" Gardali

To the Editor:

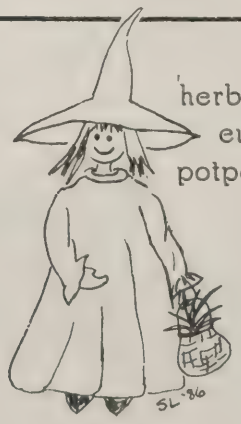
The most recent issue of the *Monterey News* had within its pages an open letter written by George McVey of Sylvan Road. It concerned the disposition of Lake Garfield and the disagreement on the part of the author with the approach that has been taken by the Town officials as concerns the proper protection and treatment of that lake.

Thirty years ago my wife and I decided that we would like to have a little place somewhere in New England within the mountainous area and near a lake where we might vacation and prepare for that day when we reached retirement age. Working within a small budget and using strong hands and backs, we were able to build a quite small cottage, adequate for our needs.

We have enjoyed many happy summers here. Then one day, following some winterizing, we retired and began to live here in Monterey full time. Our retirement has been most delightful, but recently we have become increasingly concerned for the future of Lake Garfield.

I sometimes wonder what it is that causes mankind to feel that he has special rights because by accident of birth he was born in a particular area or in a particular community. Are we not entitled by the freedom given to us by our country and its government to move where we choose to live? Is it not a God-given right that we may all enjoy the fruits of His creation? Why is it that those who love the Berkshires, who love all of New England, who want to come and live here, even if only for the summer season to enjoy what this area has to offer, are frowned upon?

Yes, there are those who abuse what is available to them, but this is not a limitation assigned only to so called "summer residents." This is a problem which reaches out also to those who were born and raised in a particular area. It would seem to me that instead of meeting in the General Store and com-



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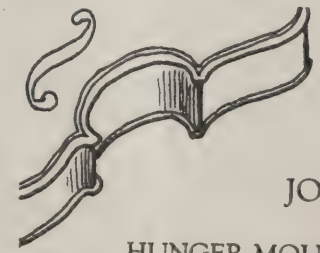

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menting openly within the hearing of others that the town dislikes the invasion of outside people, it would much better enhance this community and promote constructive and enlightened plans for the future if we got together, spoke freely and honestly and in a friendly and understanding manner with one another.

Surely we are all concerned with the future of this town and of our greatest asset, Lake Garfield. Why must there be controversy, argument and even hatred? Our Selectmen are intelligent persons, but I wonder how they can allow themselves to be influenced by a handful of people when the majority disagree. Are we more concerned with the preservation of the "spiney-backed orange-finned mongolian crustacean" which inhabits the lake or with the purification and beautification of the lake and the surrounding hills? If we can allow the beautiful hills to be broken open and lacerated by bulldozers with houses thrust to the top and destroying the landscape, why are we so concerned with the "mongolian crustacean" which inhabits the lake?

In my 30 years here, I have read many articles, attended meetings and inquired of many people as to the best treatment of the lake to kill the weeds and to best preserve the lake in its natural form. So far, the leading approaches that I have heard and the best results that have been obtained, as I understand it, have been the draw-down of the water during the winter to a low level and the use of harmless-to-fish chemicals that will gradually destroy the weeds which are in danger of choking the lake to death.

Isn't it time that we seriously put our heads together and proceed with the best approach possible in order to save our lake and, as a matter of fact, the relationship of all of our residents part- or full-time? I do agree with George McVey, and I hope that soon there will be a new beginning to the attitude and spirit of this quaint New England town.

Yours truly,

Rev. K. Gordon Drescher

To the Editor:

In the October issue an article appeared by Wallace Tryon, "Monterey Historian," along with his picture. He was my teenage and long-time friend. This article, the "Surrey Trips," brought back many memories of those days—when I spent summers with my grandparents Francis and Cynthia Heath.

My father and mother (Noble and Mable Heath Beckwith) lived on the Beckwith farm in Gt. Barrington on the Stockbridge Road, where I was born July 1, 1898. They later moved to Greenwich, Connecticut.

It would be interesting to many, I am sure, if you could get Wallace to relate his experiences with constructing a garage across from the Monterey General Store—run by Julius and Lester Miner. The garage was next to his homestead. He later built an ice cream parlor between the church and his homestead.

From Wallace's garage he and his sisters conducted automobile tours throughout the Berkshires and a taxi service for the summer tourists instead of the horse-drawn surrey trips by my grandfather, Frank Heath.

Wallace could also tell about:

The Fourth of July celebrations at midnight, when a small brass cannon was produced and shot off at intervals, while, mysteriously, the church and schoolhouse bells rang out even though the doors and windows were securely locked!

The time Frank Hart (stage driver) looked all over town at 4:00 a.m. for his light buggy used to take the mail from Otis to Monterey, to be carried on the larger stage from the store post office to Gt. Barrington. Where was the buggy? On the porch roof of the store!

Of how Delmar Tryon, Jr., used to drive the herd of milk cows to the Sandisfield Road pasture (morning and evening) with his shepherd dog "Dime" in attendance. "Dime" was so named because Del's father (Wallace's uncle) living back of the church, bought the dog for the large price of ten cents. Del Jr. was the father of the present Delmar Tryon.

Of the time the water system was ordered installed by the Selectmen from a spring up above the Sandisfield Road. My grandfather had a rock well drilled before that time, and a hand pump served many of the townspeople, who daily came to pump a pail full of the clear, cold water.

Ellery Heath, mentioned in the surrey article, was my grandfather's nephew and was First Selectman for many years.

John Heath (his brother) drove the stage route from Tyringham to Lee. I drove two summers for him, and I clerked two summers in the Monterey Store. I spent many pleasant summers with my grandparents both at the farm and the house they moved to across from the church which they owned. The farmhouse was built by my grandmother's ancestor, Captain Stewart, in 1750.

It would be interesting to have Wallace tell of the dances we went to Saturday nights in the upper floor of the schoolhouse or in schoolhouses in surrounding towns, or when later he conducted square dances down Canaan way to the tune of a country fiddler and caller.

Wallace could tell of many more items of interest. Give my regards to him, my long ago teenage friend who is affectionately remembered.

Very truly yours,

Francis Judd Beckwith

P. S. My grandmother's cousin, Curtis Judd of Ohio, built "Rock Ridge" and spent many summers there. It is now owned by the Somers, who, I'm sure, enjoy the estate on the lake.

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DONATIONS FROM OUR READERS

Contributions continue to come in from our far-flung family of readers. Since our last listing in August the following have added their financial weight to the operation of the *News*:

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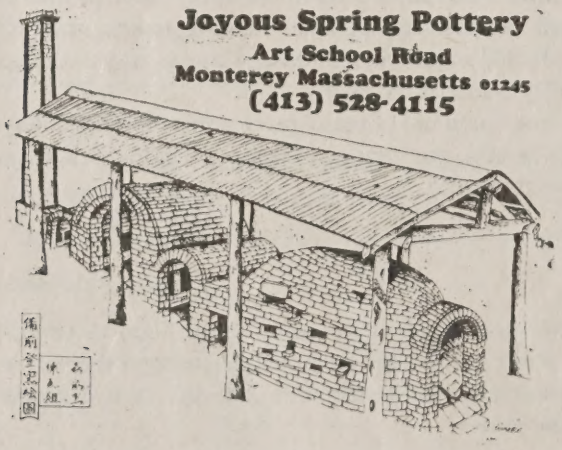

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LUCY G. SMITH

Lucy G. Smith, 92, of Beartown Mountain Road, died December 3 at Fairview Hospital.

A native of New Milford, Connecticut, she was born April 3, 1896, the daughter of the Rev. John L. and Annie M. Goodman Plumb. She attended schools in Connecticut and was a graduate of Smith College.

She vacationed in Monterey with her family while in school and met her husband, Arthur D. Smith, while a guest at his father's house. They were married in 1920, and he died in January 1969.

Lucy was a longtime member of the Falls Church outside Arlington, Virginia, and has been a member of the Congregational Church since moving to Monterey permanently in 1967. She was a deacon for many years.

She leaves two sons, Arthur P. Smith of Schenectady, New York, and Richard G. Smith of Simsbury, Connecticut; a brother, Edward F. Plumb of New Preston, Connecticut; four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

The funeral was December 7 at the Congregational Church, with the Rev. Clifford L. Aerie, pastor, officiating. Burial was in Corashire Cemetery.

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CALENDAR

Tuesday, January 3—Prayer Breakfast, 7:00 a.m. at A. Howell's.

Wednesday, January 11—*No* Community Supper tonight! We're having our winter break in January and February. Watch for the March announcement!

Saturday, January 14—Square and Contra Dance, New England Style, at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, Mass. 8:30-11:30 p.m. Beginners and children welcome. All dances taught by Joe Baker, caller; music by Mountain Laurel. Refreshments served. Adults $4, children $1, to dance until intermission. Information: 413-528-9385 or 518-329-7578.

Sunday, January 15—Deadline for letting Milly Walsh know you are going on the flower show trip to Boston: see details elsewhere in this issue.

Tuesday, January 17—Friends of Silence, 7:30 a.m. at A. Howell's.

Saturday, January 21—Informational meeting on renovations and new building needs at the Mt. Everett School. 10:00 a.m. at the firehouse.

Sunday, January 22—Annual Meeting of the Monterey United Church of Christ. 11:00 a.m. at the church.

Saturday, January 28—Square and Contra Dance, New England Style, at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, Mass. 8:30-11:30 p.m. This program is for people who have done it before. Joe Baker calling, music by Mountain Laurel. Refreshments served. For prices and information, see announcement above for January 14.

BUS TRIP TO THE BOSTON FLOWER SHOW

Plans are on foot for a Monterey bus trip to Boston on March 7 to see its famous annual flower show. We have to guarantee 25 participants to secure the bus, but there can be up to 40 passengers, so bring your friends! Tickets, including admission to the show, will be $27 each; the price does not include meals so bring a bag lunch or plan to pick up a snack in Boston. Time of departure will be announced later. If you are joining this festive, floral expedition you must let Milly Walsh know by January 15 (528-4257).

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Monterey News, Art Department
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All originals returned within two weeks.

Bonner McAllester, Art Editor

NOTES FROM THE LIBRARY

Four Saturday evening movies
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through the
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JAN 21 **The HUNCHBACK of NOTRE DAME** (1923), with Lon Chaney

JAN 28 **The BLACK PIRATE** (1926), with Douglas Fairbanks

FEB 4 **The GENERAL** (1927), with Buster Keaton

FEB 11 **SOME LIKE IT HOT** (1959), with Marilyn Monroe, Jack Lemmon, Tony Curtis

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Three-inch ad (3" x 3⅝")	7.50
Four-inch ad (4" x 3⅝")	10.00

Back cover ads are double the above prices. No classifieds on the back cover. Copy should reach the editor by the 20th of the month before publication. In general, we cannot run letters more than one column in length.

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